

TOWN WARRANT

Town of Litchfield

To the inhabitants of the Town of Litchfield in the County of Hillsborough in said State, qualified to vote in Town Affairs:

You are hereby notified that the first session of the annual meeting of the Town of Litchfield will be held at Campbell High School, 1 Highlander Court, in said Litchfield on January 30, 2010 at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon for explanation, discussion and debate of each warrant article. Warrant articles may be amended at this session per RSA §40:13, IV except for Warrant Article 4, the wording of which is prescribed by law and cannot be amended per RSA §40:13, IV (a).

You are hereby notified that the second session of the annual meeting of the Town of Litchfield will be held at Campbell High School, 1 Highlander Court, in said Litchfield on Tuesday, March 9, 2010 at 7:00 in the forenoon for the choice of Town Officers elected by official ballot to vote on questions required by laws to be inserted on the official ballot and to vote on all warrant articles from the first session on official ballot per RSA §40:13, VIII. The polls for the election of town officers and other action required to be inserted on said ballot will be open on said date at 7:00 o'clock in the forenoon and will not close earlier than 7:00 o'clock in the evening.

Article 1. To elect by ballot the following Town officers: two Selectmen-three year term; two Budget Committee members-three year term; One Trustee to Trust Fund-three year term; Two Library Trustee-three year term; One Fire Chief-three year term; One Checklist Supervisor-Six year term; One Cemetery Trustee – one year term, One Cemetery Trustee – two year term, One Cemetery Trustee – three year term.

Article 2. Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 1 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Litchfield Zoning Ordinance as follows?:

Adopt a new Section 475, Inclusionary Housing, to provide for the construction of workforce housing in order to comply with the Workforce Housing Statute, NH RSA 674:58-61. In order to reduce the cost of construction, workforce housing will be granted reductions in lot size, frontage, building setbacks, building area and adjacent road width. Provision is also made to ensure future affordability of workforce housing. Workforce housing will be permitted in the Residential Zone, with Multi-family (3-5+ units per building) being limited to north of Leach Brook.

This amendment has Planning Board approval.

Yes

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No

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Article 3 Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 2 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Litchfield Zoning Ordinance as follows?:

Adopt a new Section 575, Conservation Open Space Development, to require proposed residential subdivision developments 20 acres or greater in size to be designed to preserve natural features and wildlife habitat. This ordinance will permit reduced lot size, setbacks, and frontage, so that building lots take up less area allowing equal building lot density as a conventional development while preserving open space. Open space will be owned and/or managed by the Town, land trust or association utilizing a conservation easement.

This amendment has Planning Board approval.

Yes

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No

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- Article 4. To see if the town will raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriation by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth in the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$4,387,436. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$4,372,742, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the town of Litchfield or by Law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA §40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (Vote: 4-0-0)

Recommended by the Budget Committee (Vote: 7-1-0)

Yes

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No

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- Article 5. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$58,100 to hire a Town Administrator effective July 5, 2010. The cost of the period for July 5, 2010 until December 31, 2010 will be \$58,100 of which \$42,500 represents salary and \$15,600 represents benefits. The annual cost of this position will be \$116,200 of which \$85,000 represents salary and \$31,200 represents benefits. This position shall have an annual salary not to exceed \$85,000 per year.

This position will provide day to day management of the town's government as delegated by the Board of Selectmen. It is the intention of this position to ensure that the operations of the town's governmental organizations are conducted in a cost effective, coordinated and timely manner. This position differs from the Board of Selectmen Office Manager in that the position encompasses responsibilities for department operations beyond the financial accounting and organization of the Selectmen's office. Town functions such as Highway, Solid Waste, Police, Code Enforcement and Building will report to this individual for day to day operations.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (Vote: 5-0-0)

Recommended by the Budget Committee (Vote 5-3-0)

Yes ☐

No ☐

Article 6. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 as a stipend to hire one (1) Welfare Administrator who shall have the responsibility under the supervision of the Board of Selectmen for the administration of the town's welfare program as specified under RSA § 165:1.

This position will be responsible for the administration of the town's welfare program currently administered by the Board of Selectmen. This position will be responsible for managing the welfare budget, accepting welfare applications, reviewing the applications for eligibility to receive welfare and to provide aid to those qualified applicants. This position will report to the Board of Selectmen who shall with the Welfare Administrator set welfare standards and policies for the town.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (Vote 3-1-1)

Recommended by the Budget Committee (Vote 6-2-0)

Yes ☐

No ☐

Article 7. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the amount of \$1,395 for the formation and initial budget of an Ethics Committee and to rescind the existing Conflict of Interest Law, and adopt in lieu thereof a new Code of Ethics as written by the Litchfield Code of Ethics Formation Committee. Copies of the proposed Code of Ethics may be obtained at Town Clerks Office, and at the Aaron Cutler Memorial Library.

This warrant will establish an Ethics Committee whose charter is to impartially investigate citizen complaints of potential ethical conflict by town officials, volunteers and committee members and to bring their findings to the Board of Selectmen for resolution. The proposed ethics policy is based upon a policy currently in use in the town of Dunbarton. Enactment of this article will provide a means for Litchfield's citizens to resolve perceived or real ethical concerns with town government. Neither this article nor the Ethics Policy includes the School Government within its scope.

Not Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (Vote 3-2-0)

Recommended by the Budget Committee (Vote 5-2-0) The Budget Committee's recommendation relates only to the appropriation request for this article, and express no opinion on the merits of the included Ethics Policy.

Yes ☐

No ☐

Article 8. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$24,871.06 to hire one (1) full time police officer effective July 11, 2010. The cost for the period of July 11, 2010 through December 31, 2010 is \$24,871.06, of which \$17,386.00 is for salary and \$7,485.06 is for benefits and equipment. The annual cost of said officer will be \$49,633.51 of which \$37,663.39 will be for salary and \$11,970.12 will be for benefits and equipment.

The hiring of a full time police officer will provide for additional coverage ensuring that there are always two (2) officers on duty at all times. Presently, Litchfield has only one (1) officer on duty approximately 35% of the time. This additional officer is in concurrence with the 2008 Municipal Resources Institute (MRI) report that recommended an additional two (2) officers be added to the force. This additional officer will provide for increased citizen and officer safety.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (Vote 5-0-0)

Recommended by the Budget Committee (Vote 6-2-0)

Yes ☐

No ☐

Article 9. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the amount of \$50,000.00 for the purchase a 1998 Freightliner FL70 Medium Duty Rescue Truck from the Town of Londonderry. This appropriation shall be non-lapsing per RSA § 32:7, VI, and will not lapse until the vehicle has been purchased or December 31, 2011.

This truck with approximately 12,000 miles includes an on-spot tire chain system, 16 foot non-walk-in rescue body constructed of non-corroding lightweight ABS and 9 large size walk around storage compartments. Included in the purchase are a 15,000 lb. front bumper WARN winch, 5,700 watt on board diesel powered generator, Quartz scene work lights, emergency warning lights, siren, (2) 100 foot hydraulic hose reels for auto extrication equipment and a 4-bottle, 6,000 PSI high pressure breathing air recharge system capable of refilling approximately 45 firefighting SCBA Air Packs. Purchase of this vehicle will defer the purchase of a replacement, full sized fire truck for approximately 3 to 5 years providing anticipated savings of approximately \$180,000 to \$300,000 over that time period in purchase payments and by saving wear and tear on existing full size fire vehicles responding to incidents.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (Vote 4-1-0)

Recommended by the Budget Committee (Vote 8-0-0)

Yes ☐

No ☐

Article 10. Shall the town vote to approve the cost items for wage and related costs that have been included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Town of Litchfield and Council 93 of the American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees which provide for the following increases in wages and benefits;

2010 \$24,312.28

And further, to raise and appropriate the sum of \$24,312.28 for the 2010 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional cost attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits over those of the appropriation at the current staffing levels, paid in the prior fiscal year. This collective bargaining agreement covers full and part time patrol officers and full and part time dispatchers.

This contract establishes a new base salary for the bargaining officers and dispatchers that are representative of rates paid by the surrounding communities. The bargaining unit has agreed to defer any wage increases for 2008 and 2009 represented by cost of living adjustments. Further, the bargaining unit has agreed to this as being a one (1) year contract with a salary adjustment thus avoiding the evergreen clause. Benefits to the bargaining unit include the addition of a holiday to match the town non-bargaining group, accelerated vesting of vacations and various additions to pay for a night shift premium, the addition of minimum hours of pay for cancelled details (chargeable against the contractor and not paid by the town) and a premium for Field Training Officer premium.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (Vote 5-0-0)

Recommended by the Budget Committee (Vote 6-2-0)

Yes ☐

No ☐

Article 11. Shall we modify the elderly exemption from property tax in the Town of Litchfield, based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers, to the following: for a person 65 years of age up to 75 years of age, \$50,000; for a person 75 years of age up to 80 years of age, \$80,000; for persons 80 years of age and above, \$125,000. To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 3 consecutive years, own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married to each other for at least 5 consecutive years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income in each applicable age group of not more than \$30,000 if single or not more than \$45,000 if married; and own net assets not in excess of \$300,000 excluding the value of the person's residence.

This article seeks to clarify the town's existing exemptions as submitted by petition warrant article in 2004 and partially denied by the Department of Revenue Administration. The findings of the NH Department of Revenue Administration on the petition warrant article approved by the voters in 2004 pointed out several errors with the petitioned age categories as well as years of residence and marriage status. This warrant article does not change the exemption levels but only seeks to create compliance with state law in the areas found deficient by NHDRA.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (Vote 5-0-0)

Yes ☐

No ☐

Article 12. To see if the town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into negotiations with Pennichuck East Utilities for the town to assume responsibility for the subscribers costs for the Fire Protection surcharge. The results of these negotiations will be brought back to the voters in March of 2011 for consideration.

Currently, Pennichuck East Utilities charges subscribers a monthly fee to cover the cost of installation and maintenance for fire hydrant installation. This cost, currently assessed to all subscribers, would be assumed by the town if passed in 2011 and amounts to approximately \$269,000 per year at the present time. The purpose of this warrant article is to see if the town will authorize the Selectmen to negotiate this charge with the intention that the town will assume the cost of the Fire Protection surcharge through an assessment to be contained as part of the property tax. Prior to assuming these charges, the results of the negotiations will be brought back to the town meeting for consideration on the 2011 warrant.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (Vote 3-1-1)

Yes ☐

No ☐

Article 13 By petition: "To see if the Town will vote to approve the following resolution to be forwarded to our State Representative(s), our State Senator, the Speaker of the House, and the Senate President. Resolved: The citizens of New Hampshire should be allowed to vote on an amendment to the New Hampshire Constitution that defines "marriage"."

Yes ☐

No ☐

Article 14 By Petition: "Shall Litchfield, NH adopt the provisions of RSA 40:14-b to delegate the determination of the default budget to the municipal budget committee which has been adopted under RSA 32:14?"

Passage of this article requires a 3/5 majority.

Not Recommended by the Board of Selectmen (Vote 4-0-0)
Recommended by the Budget Committee (5-3-0)

Yes ☐

No ☐

Given under our hands and seal this 18th day of January, in the year of our Lord Two Thousand and ten.

Litchfield Board of Selectmen

Frank A. Byron, Chairman

George A. Lambert

Steven Perry

M. Patricia Jewett

Andrew M. Santom

A true copy of Warrant----Attest:

Litchfield Board of Selectmen

Frank A. Byron, Chairman

George A. Lambert

Steven Perry

M. Patricia Jewett

Andrew M. Santom